IN THE SPECIFICATION

Before paragraph 4, insert the following paragraphs:

The present invention is directed to an apparatus for gripping and removing a shingle fixed to a support or substrate. The apparatus comprises: an upper gripping member defining a substantially flat first gripping surface a lower gripping member defining a substantially flat second gripping surface; a gripping mechanism connecting the upper and lower gripping members to one another, the gripping mechanism being configured for urging the gripping members toward one another for gripping the shingle therebetween; and an impact transmitting member connected to the gripping mechanism, the impact transmitting member being configured for transmitting an impact to both the upper and lower gripping members for removing the shingle from its support when the shingle is gripped between the upper and lower gripping members. According to the present invention, the first and second gripping surfaces are configured and disposed relative to one another such that, when the apparatus grips the shingle, each of the first and second gripping surfaces applies a force distributed across a respective one of substantially flat surfaces of the shingle; and the impact transmitting member is further configured and disposed for transmitting the impact substantially parallel to the flat surfaces of the shingle for removing the shingle from the support.

C2

The present invention further pertains to a method for removing a shingle fixed to a support. The method comprises: gripping the shingle between a first flat gripping surface and a second flat gripping surface of respective upper and lower gripping

members of a gripping apparatus such that each of the first and second flat gripping surfaces applies a force distributed across a respective one of flat surfaces of the shingle; and transmitting an impact to both the upper and lower gripping members in a direction substantially parallel to the flat surfaces of the shingle when the shingle is gripped there between for removing the shingle from the support.

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Please amend paragraphs 0009 and 0011 as follows:

[0009] An embodiment of the present invention is shown in Figure 1. This embodiment generally comprises ~~locking pliers 10 having~~ upper and lower gripping members. The upper and lower gripping members in the shown embodiment comprise upper and lower plates 11 and 12 fixed to ~~the~~ an upper jaw 13 and ~~the~~ a lower jaw 14, respectively.~~, as well as~~ An impact transmitting member such as an anvil 15 adapted to receive a blow from a hammer (not shown.) The invention is best implemented using a gripping mechanism such as locking pliers 10, although non-locking pliers can also be used. Locking pliers 10 include an upper handle 16 that is pivotally coupled to jaw member 17 at pin 18, and a lower handle 19 that is pivotally coupled to a jaw member 17 at pin 20. As used herein, the term "coupled" means directly or indirectly connected. Thus, if A is coupled to B, and B is coupled to C, then A is coupled to C. Upper handle 16 and lower handle 19 terminate at their distal ends with opposable upper jaw 13 and lower jaw 14, respectively. Anvil 15 is fixed to jaw member 17 and is oriented at about a 90 degree angle in relation to lower plate 12. Upper handle 16 is pivotally coupled to linking member 21 at pin 22, and lower handle 19 is pivotally coupled to linking member 21 at

C3

pin 23. At its proximal end, upper handle 16 is internally threaded and is adapted to receive adjustment screw 24. Distal to the threaded portion, the upper handle forms a cylinder having a slot along its length. The slot is adapted to receive the upper end of link member 21, which freely slides along the slot, and which abuts the distal end of adjustment screw 24. Further towards upper jaw 13

C3 cont

and around pin 18, upper handle 16 is generally U-shaped to receive the upper portion of jaw member 17. Proximal end of spring 25 is fastened to upper handle 16, while distal end of spring is coupled to jaw member 17, thereby providing a bias to keep jaws 13 and 14 open. Release lever 26 is pivotally coupled to lower handle 19 at pin 27.

[0011] In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, opposing upper plate 11 and lower plate 12 ~~are fastened to the bottom of~~ grip a shingle by bringing upper handle 16 and lower handle 19 of pliers 10 together. Adjustment screw should be set such that the upper and lower plates 11 and 12 grip the shingle with sufficient force when the pliers 10 are in the locked position. Plates ~~10~~ 11 and ~~11~~ 12 grip the shingle with sufficient force when the shingle is removed when anvil 15 receives a blow from a hammer. Plates ~~10~~ 11 and ~~11~~ 12 grip with insufficient force when the tool comes off the shingle when it receives a blow from the hammer, without removing the shingle. The force from plate ~~10~~ 11 and ~~11~~ 12, as can be readily appreciated from the instant description, is distributed across respective ones of flat surfaces of the shingle.

C4